

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 17, 2006, claims 8-16, drawn to a "bearing assembly" have been selected with traverse for prosecution. MPEP 803 provides in pertinent part:

" . . . If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions"

In the present application, there were only four independent claims presented, and 25 claims total, for examination. It is respectfully submitted that examining all the claims of the application would not give rise to a serious burden on the Examiner. It is further submitted that examining all the claims at this time would be beneficial to the Office by eliminating the possibility of subsequent divisional applications being assigned to different examiners, thus requiring familiarization of the present application by potentially more than one examiner. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 26-35, directed to a "bearing assembly", are being submitted at this time for examination. It is believed that all of the pending claims are in form for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Formal drawings are being submitted herewith. The Examiner will note that additional reference numerals have been included in certain of the Figures to even better reference various components of the claimed bearing assembly. Specifically, in

Figure 2, numeral 44' has been added. In Figure 3 numeral 64' has been added. In Figure 4 numerals 62 and 64 have been added. And in Figure 6, on the left had side of the figure, numeral 42 has been changed to 42' and 48 has been changed to 48'. No new matter has been entered.

Conclusion

It is believed that the entire application is in form for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity. If the Examiner has any questions, the undersigned may be contacted at (248) 641-1229 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Mark D. Elchuk, Reg. No. 33,686

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
MDE/jo